

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested copies of all of the related U.S. Patent applications that were identified to the Examiner. In response, enclosed are copies of all of the applications. Please note that the application serial numbers beginning with "29" are directed to Design patent applications that were filed. Should the Examiner request any further information with respect to any of the enclosed submitted applications, he is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

In the Office Action, the claims were also provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 1-50 of co-pending patent application number 09/977,667. In response, Applicants agree to submit a terminal disclaimer in the future if a terminal disclaimer is necessary in view of any patents that issue from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/977,667.

In the Office Action, claims 1-25 were also provisionally rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over co-pending application number 09/977,667. In response, Applicants submit that Serial No. 09/977,667 is not prior art under 35 USC § 102(e). In particular, the '667 application and the present application were both filed on October 15, 2001. As such, the '667 application does not qualify as prior art under 35 USC § 102(e). Further, the subject matter of the '667 application and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity, namely Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. Removal of this reference as prior art is respectfully requested.

In summary, it is believed that the presently pending application is in complete condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this response, however, then Examiner Gitomer is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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